



PORTS AND YACHTING DIRECTORATE

## LOCAL NOTICE TO MARINERS N° 023 of 2023

Our Ref: **TM/PYD/ 90/01 VII**

16 February 2023



Transport Malta

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### Noise levels onboard commercial vessels

This Notice is to be read in conjunction with (Notice to Mariners N° 09 of 2023 - LIFE Arcipelagu Garnija Project – Restriction areas around Malta)

The Ports and Yachting Directorate, Transport Malta, reminds all operators, masters, and crew of commercial vessels of the provisions of the Code of Practice for the Safety of Commercial Vessels dealing with noise and loud music onboard such commercial vessels. These provisions have been established to safeguard the safety of navigation and operations of the vessel by ensuring that all communications onboard are not impaired **at any time**; and also, to take into consideration the social and environmental obligations by ensuring that no nuisance is caused especially in areas which are noise sensitive. These provisions are to be complied with **at all times**.

Furthermore, all operators, masters and crew are hereby notified that, when organising boat parties, a **No Objection** to enter any port, harbour or bay shall be obtained from Valletta Port Control (Valletta VTS), prior to the event taking place.

The **No Objection** has to be applied for, not less than 24 hours prior to the scheduled activity and the following conditions shall be observed:

1. The required permits to hold the activity must be in hand and submitted to the Authority.
2. The names and contact numbers of the Master and of a second contact person, (on board) shall be provided to the Authority.
3. Noise<sup>1</sup> and music levels shall be controlled so that they do not cause any disturbance and nuisance to other persons on vessels in the vicinity or persons ashore. Sound levels shall not impair in any way, communications to and from the vessel. To be complied with **at all times**.
4. Music must be stopped by 2300 hours.



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Further restrictions may apply to locations in close proximity to residential or environmentally sensitive areas.

Operators, masters, and crew are to keep watch on VHF Channel 12 and cooperate with the enforcement officers in the area and with the Valletta Port Control (Valletta VTS) and comply with all instructions and directions given.

Enforcement action will be taken accordingly in the event of any non-compliance.

<sup>1</sup>**Noise:** - is unwanted sound considered unpleasant, loud or disruptive to hearing, it shall, amongst others, include horns, sirens, whistles, rackets, shouting, jeering, drums and other sources.

Local Notice to Mariners N° 008 of 2020 of Transport Malta is hereby **CANCELLED**.